

## USOE HAPPENINGS

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"The seamless coherence among assessments, analysis, and action creates the ideal classroom environment for significant gains in student learning." — Paul Bambrick-Santoyo

### REMINDER CORNER

The October **UBSCT** corrected electronic file to fix errors was due in to Computer Services, USOE, by JANUARY 31ST!

**The Spring 2007 First Grade Math and English/Language Arts CRTs have been temporarily re-posted to the Move-it folder. Please use these at your discretion.**

### Preparation, Planning and Practice: How to Ensure a Successful CBT Experience

If your district will be testing online this spring, then you have probably already begun to address the three P's: preparation, planning, and practice. The first round of CBT training for district and charter school personnel has already occurred, and additional training is planned for this spring. Many schools have found that administering tests through CBT is not as difficult as it was first envisioned, and have increased their participation commitment. If your school would like to be more involved in CBT this spring, please contact your district or charter school's Assessment Director.

To prepare for CBT, visit Pearson's (the CBT vendor) website at <http://etest.pearson.com/customers/utah> and become familiar with the technical requirements and

system features that are documented under the "Resources" section. The most effective planning will include technical support personnel as well as administrators – both at the district and school level. Practice should include students and proctors.

New Electronic Practice Tests (ePATs) have been published to the Resources page of Pearson's website, and are meant to help students become familiar with the testing system. These are available for elementary and secondary math, science, and English language arts.

New this year on the English language arts tests is the vertical split-screen feature where the reading passage appears on the left side of the screen and test questions on the right. Math tests have four function scientific and/

or graphing calculators (depending on the test). Other tools are available for the different tests. We encourage you to help students practice using these features prior to live testing.

At the end of January, the ePAT content will be available in Training Tests to allow proctors/administrators to simulate live testing and practice managing students through Pearson's website. Test sessions may be created with sample students, test authorization (test-taking) tickets can be printed, students can log in and take the ePATs, and proctors can stop sessions.

**50%** Of English Language Learner (ELL) students should be tested with the Utah Academic Language Proficiency Assessment (UALPA), and constructed responses scored and returned to the USOE by FEBRUARY 29TH! Scoring of constructed responses should be done by the trained district personnel. .



## CBT

CBT – computer-based testing—refers to the online administration of Criterion-Referenced Tests

## Computer-Based Assessments (CBT)

(CRTs) that is offered during your Spring testing window. Please be aware of the following dates:

February 4th — CBT Training

(Video Conferencing)

February 6th — CBT Training

(Granite School District)

February 7th — CBT Training  
(Sevier School District)

Starting Friday, January 11, 2008, every other Friday from 9:00-11:00 Julie Quinn will offer a mini-CBT Training available through Polycom or a conference call.

## ACE Warning Against Online GED® Testing

The General Educational Development Testing Service™ (GEDTS), a program of the American Council on Education® (ACE) and architect of the Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests), is aware of various entities claiming to offer GED exams online.

Please be advised that the GED credential cannot be earned via the Internet nor through correspondence programs. The GED Tests, developed by GEDTS, require extensive preparation and the demonstration of a high level of high school knowledge and academic skills.

The GED Tests are administered in each U.S. state and insular area, Canadian provinces and territories, the U.S. military, and federal correctional institutions via **Official GED Testing Centers ONLY**. To identify an Official GED Testing Center, please visit <http://www.acenet.edu/programs/GEDTS> and link to "Locate a GED Testing Center."

Any services that purport to offer a GED credential through any other means are **NOT** affiliated with GEDTS or ACE, may be of dubious value, and may deliver a product that is not accepted by employers, colleges and universities, or the military.

*Hiring personnel, college admissions*

*officers, and military enlistment personnel:* To verify the authenticity of an individual's GED credential, please contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency that administered the GED Tests. A complete listing of these agencies can be found at <http://www.gedtest.org> by linking to "Contact your Jurisdiction's GED Testing Program."



## Understanding the Ethics Training Requirements

The ethics training protocol was approved by the Utah State Office of Education Board last January to ensure that all educators are given the same information on administering mandated tests. All educators must receive this training before proctoring any test. If you have any questions on ethical testing practice, please contact your District Assessment Director or the State Assessment Director at Deborah.Swensen@schools.utah.gov. All materials provided for the training are available on our web site at [http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/district\\_administrators.aspx](http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/district_administrators.aspx).

## SCIENCE ASSESSMENT—UPCOMING CRT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Contact Kevin King at [Kevin.king@schools.utah.gov](mailto:Kevin.king@schools.utah.gov) or 801-538-7591 for more information.

DATE	ACTIVITY	GRADES / COURSES
February 5-6, 2008	Item Content Review	7th Gd. Integrated, 8th Gd. Integrated, Earth Systems Science
February 13-15, 2008	Bias and Sensitivity Review	7th Gd. Integrated, 8th Gd. Integrated, Earth Systems Science
March 18-19, 2008	Item Content Review	Biology, Chemistry, Physics
March 20, 2008	Expert Content Review	All courses
April 1-3, 2008	Bias and Sensitivity Review	Biology, Chemistry, Physics
June 10-12, 2008	Item Writing	4th Gd., 5th Gd., 6th Gd.

## Materials for Upcoming State Assessments

Test material ordering windows closing January 31st:

Direct Writing Assessment (DWA) for 6th and 9th graders. Materials should be at districts by February 1st.

CRT (end-of-level) materials will be at districts April 1st or before.

Iowa 3rd Grade SPRING Reading Assessment is closing FEBRUARY 29TH, but get your orders in early to receive the first shipments!

Most school and district staff should know that questions regarding assessments and procedures can be answered by simply visiting the web page for Assessment through the USOE! Try going to <http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment> and choosing the Testing Directors link. There are PowerPoints, links, and even a search bar!

## Math Core Changes and the CRTs

As you are most likely aware, It was not possible for the Assessment Section at the Utah State Office of Education to develop a new math CRT this year due to the quick development and implementation of the new Math Core Curriculum. Therefore, the Math CRT students will be taking in the spring is aligned to the old Math Core Curriculum, not the new. A

solution has been found to address any concerns about the validity of the math CRT this spring by matching this year's math CRT with the new Math Core Curriculum implemented this year. Students will take the entire test, but only items matching the new core will be scored. Students will not be able to tell which items will "count" and which will not. It is important that

students try to do their best on all items. This means that student proficiency on the Math CRT will be determined only by those items on the test that align to standards and objectives in the new Math Core Curriculum implemented this year. The raw score reports you will see soon after testing this spring will be based on the matched items, as will the scale scores and proficiency levels that will appear in the fall.

**UTAH STATE  
OFFICE OF**



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## Utah State Office of Education: Assessment & Accountability

### Workshops

**Elementary Math UTIPS Item Alignment Workshop— JANUARY 23-24.** Contact Char Pierce at 538-7836 for more information.

**Science Bias and Sensitivity Workshops for secondary science grades — FEBRUARY 13-15 and April 1-3.** Contact Jauni Solberg at 538-7702 for more information.

**UALPA item writing review is coming up in March / April.**

February Assessment Directors' meeting has been cancelled due to CRT trainings.

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/>

### Bias and Sensitivity Panelists Are Needed

#### **What is a bias and sensitivity review?**

The Assessment Department at the Utah State Office of Education conducts several bias and sensitivity workshops to review passages and items for ELA, math, science and ELL for grades K-12, throughout the year. We are in need of educators and members of the community from all perspectives and ethnic backgrounds for this review.

#### **What is my role?**

As a reviewer, your role would be to individually read test items/passages, to identify any potential bias issues and/or concerns, and to rate each item/passage.

The passages that are identified as having a potential bias concern will then be discussed by the group, and committee members will have the opportunity to make changes to their rating forms if they so choose.

Your role is an advisory one. The final decisions concerning which passages and items are included in the assessment will be made by the Utah State Office of Education.

#### **Who should apply?**

To qualify, candidate panelists should meet the following criteria:

Experienced, new or retired school teachers/leaders who have taught reading, English, Special Ed, mathematics and other content at grades K-12, or have current and direct experience working with K-12 students.

Students and members of the community offering a unique perspective on one or more specific student subgroups (e.g., racial, ethnic or religious groups, rural or urban interests, individuals with disabilities, recent immigrants, English language learners, etc.) or who have direct experience working with students from these subgroups.

Be willing to work intensively with a team of educators/ community member for up to three consecutive days.

#### **When are applications due?**

The deadline for applying is two weeks before the beginning of each workshop (see above).

### UPCOMING FEBRUARY MEETINGS

#### **Computer-Based Trainings**

- 4 — CBT Training (Video Conferencing)
- 6 — CBT Training (Granite School District)
- 7 — CBT Training (Sevier School District)

#### **Criterion-Referenced Test Trainings**

- 14 — CRT Training (Video Conferencing)
- 20 — CRT Training (Sevier School District)
- 25 — CRT Training (Video Conferencing)
- 26 — CRT Training (Box Elder School District)
- 27 — CRT Training (Salt Lake School District)
- 28 — CRT Training (Nebo Learning Center)

**CRT trainings will cover appropriate accommodations for students during the CRTs, ethics training, new CRT requirements and other administrative concerns. We encourage Assessment Directors, Special Ed. Directors, ALS Directors and Site Coordinators to attend. Please coordinate attendance within your district Assessment Director.**